



PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: | Frederick M. Ausubel et al. | Art Unit: | 1631 |
| Serial No.: | 09/975,719 | Examiner: | Not yet assigned |
| Filed: | October 10, 2001 | Customer No.: | 21559 |
| Title: | VIRULENCE-ASSOCIATED NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCES AND USES THEREOF | | |

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, kindly consider the following amendments and remarks.

In the specification:

Replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 20 through page 5, line 21 of the specification with the following paragraph that has been re-written in clean form.

In one aspect, the invention features an isolated nucleic acid molecule including a sequence substantially identical to any one of BI48 (SEQ ID NO:1), ORF2 (SEQ ID NO:2), ORF3 (SEQ ID NO:4), ORF602c (SEQ ID NO:6), ORF214 (SEQ ID NO:8), ORF1242c (SEQ ID NO:10), ORF594 (SEQ ID NO:12), ORF1040 (SEQ ID NO:14), ORF1640c (SEQ ID NO:16), ORF2228c (SEQ ID NO:18), ORF2068c (SEQ ID NO:20), ORF1997 (SEQ ID NO:22),